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WHAT EVERY ONE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

WAR LEGISLATION

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**Don't find fault with the law and the Government in this crisis!
Obey them!**

Monograph

WAR LEGISLATION

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What Is Our War Legislation?

It consists of special burdens, obligations, and restraints imposed upon us because we are at war. It is emergency legislation necessary to our national defense, and for the most part will not remain after the war has ended.

It is necessary: first, to stamp out treason and disloyalty; second, to mobilize American patriotism and conserve our strength and resources. The loyal citizen wishes to serve; the war legislation shows him what to do and what not to do.

It is your legislation. You made it. You elected the Congress which framed it and the President who approved it. It is the crystallized will of the whole people —your will and the will of the nation.

Why Understand It?

Because even the loyal citizen may easily break the law without knowing it. If you do break it, it is no defense that you were ignorant or that you meant well. "Ignorance of the law excuses no man."

Because public opinion must help enforce the law. You cannot do your part unless you know its methods and its purposes. The good citizen is the intelligent citizen. Learn what the law demands of you and tell your neighbor!

WHAT THE LAW REQUIRES US TO DO

SOME MUST FIGHT—CONSCRIPTION

Why? Because the nation cannot wait for volunteers. Because the nation must be free to choose the men who can best be spared and who are best fitted.

Who? Men between 21 and 30 inclusive. These men numbered 9,569,382 on June 5, 1917. Men may be exempted for reasons stated by law; e. g., physical defects, dependent relatives, etc. No one can buy exemption from the draft. No one can send a substitute.

When? As fast as they are needed and can be used. In the order in which they can best be spared.

How Long? Until the cause for which we are fighting has triumphed.

Penalty? Imprisonment for the man who fails to respond.

ALL MUST PAY—TAXATION

The Reason. War takes money as well as men. Our government has appropriated $21,390,000,000 during the first year of the war. Of this, $2,500,000,000 must be raised by taxation, a sum nearly as large as the entire cost of our Civil War.

Your share. Depends roughly upon your ability to pay. The rich must pay. The poor must pay. There are taxes upon luxuries. There are taxes upon necessities. We have not yet begun to approach the burden of taxation now borne by European countries.

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The Taxes

1. *The Inheritance Tax.* An inheritance of $50,000 or less is taxed 2%. A tax of 2% is laid on all inheritances over that amount supplemented by a series of surtaxes or additional taxes running up to 25% on the amount of the inheritance above $10,000,000.

2. *The Income Taxes.* Two income tax laws are in force. To determine one's income tax it is necessary to compute the amount due under the act of September 8, 1916, and add to it the tax due under the war income tax law of October 3, 1917. Under the new law $1000 net incomes of single persons and $2000 net incomes of married persons are exempt from taxation. Above those points the rates range from 2% up finally to 50% on the amount of income above $1,000,000.

3. *The Corporation Tax.* Taxes are now levied upon the net incomes of all business corporations (with a few exceptions) at a flat rate of 6%.

4. *Excess Profits Tax.* These taxes are laid upon the profits of individuals, partnerships, and corporations which, after certain deductions are made, are higher than certain percentages of the capital invested. These range from a tax of 20% on profits up to 15% to 60% on profits of 33% or more. When trades, businesses, occupations, or professions have no actual invested capital, an 8% tax is laid on the net incomes of individuals above $6000 and of corporations above $3000. The provisions of this law are exceedingly complicated

5. *Taxes on Luxuries.* It is natural that heavy taxes should be levied upon luxuries. Some of the important commodities in this class are: intoxicating liquors, soft drinks, automobiles, jewelry, sporting goods, cameras, chewing gum, playing cards, yachts, admissions to places of amusement, dues of societies and organizations. The taxes on all such commodities are paid directly by the manufacturer and indirectly by the consumer in higher prices

6. *Taxes on Necessaries.* Luxuries cannot pay all the taxes. Large sums must be raised by taxing the common necessities of life. Taxes are therefore placed upon medicines, toilet articles, railroad tickets, long distance telephone service, telegrams, postal service, insurance policies, express and parcel post packages, and numerous commercial and financial documents such as bonds, stocks, promissory notes, deeds, etc.

WHAT THE LAW FORBIDS US TO DO

ACTS OF TREASON AND DISLOYALTY

The government deals promptly and severely with traitors, spies, and disloyal agitators. Treason is the crime of "levying war against the United States, or in adhering to their enemies, giving them aid and comfort." It is punishable by death Other offences (given below) are punished by heavy penalties.

1. *Acting as a Spy.* Every nation punishes the spy with death. His crime is that of giving the enemy information about our national defense. Every one is forbidden under heavy penalty to secure information about national defense with

the intention that it may be of use to the enemy. In regard to all such matters the safe rule for the loyal citizen is to mind his own business and keep his mouth shut. (Penalty: $10,000 fine, 2 yrs. imprisonment, or both.)

2. *Violence and Wilful Destruction of Property.* The law is lying in wait for the man who burns or blows up bridges, warehouses, and the like. Such acts may be treasonable as "giving aid and comfort to the enemy," while they are in addition crimes against the laws of the separate states. The federal government has placed special penalties upon violent interference with commerce, shipping, and telegraph lines ($10,000 fine, 10-20 yrs. imprisonment, or both).

3. *Disturbance of Foreign Relations.* To make false statements for the purpose of injuring the United States in its relations with a foreign nation is a crime. It is also a crime to conspire in the United States to injure the public property of a government with which we are at peace. (Penalty: $5000 fine, 5 yrs. imprisonment, or both.)

4. *Hostile Acts Against Friendly Nations.* Our neutrality laws forbid making this country the base of any hostile operations or expeditions against friendly nations. Persons were recently convicted in New York for plotting to blow up the Welland Canal and others for scheming to cause a rebellion in India. (Penalty $3000 fine, 3 yrs. imprisonment.)

5. *Circulation of False Statements to Aid the Enemy.* A lie may be a deadly weapon against us Those who make or repeat false statements for the purpose of interfering with our military or naval success while we are at war are liable to severe punishment ($10,000 fine, 20 yrs. imprisonment, or both).

6. *Inciting Disloyalty in the Army and Navy.* The Germans have won victories in this war simply by insidiously undermining the morale of the Allied Armies. It is therefore made a crime to incite to disloyalty, insubordination, mutiny, or refusal of duty in our military or naval forces by any method whatsoever. Men who are registered for the draft are part of our military forces although not actually in service. (Penalty: $10,000 fine. 20 yrs. imprisonment, or both.)

7. *Obstruction of Recruiting.* The law says that there must be no wilful interference with the man who wishes to enlist in the army or navy. There is a heavy penalty for violations of this act ($10,000 fine, 20 yrs. imprisonment, or both).

8. *Criminal Conspiracies.* It is a crime against the United States for two or more persons to plot or conspire to overthrow the government, oppose its authority, obstruct the enforcement of its laws, destroy its property, or violate any of its laws. Every person involved in such a conspiracy is guilty even though the plot failed *or was never carried out.* (Penalty: $5000 fine, 5 yrs. imprisonment, or both)

9. *Threats Against the President.* There is a severe penalty for any one who threatens, in speech, writing, or any other way, to injure bodily or to kill the President of the United States ($1000 fine, 5 yrs. imprisonment, or both.)

10. *Abuse of the Flag.* The laws of Illinois and other states forbid any one to use the United States flag for advertising purposes or to desecrate, defy, or cast contempt upon it in any way.

11. *Misuse of the Mails.* Every person is forbidden to send through the mails any communication which is treasonable in character or which urges or advocates

treason, insurrection, or forcible resistance to any federal law. A severe penalty is attached ($5000 fine, 5 yrs. imprisonment, or both).

12. *Failure to Report Violations of the Law.* Heavy punishments are visited upon those who harbor violators of the law or fail to make known facts in their possession regarding crimes and conspiracies, whether carried out or not, against the United States. (Penalty: $10,000 fine, 2 yrs. imprisonment, or both.)

TRADING WITH THE ENEMY

A loyal citizen might easily violate this prohibition without knowing it.

You should know, therefore, that

The Enemy

is composed of the following classes.

1. Every person who lives in Germany, Austria, or the territory of their allies, or in any territory occupied by them; e. g., Belgium

2. Every person living outside the United States who does business in such enemy territory.

3. Every corporation created by Germany or her allies

4. Corporations not created by the United States or the states thereof and doing business in enemy territory.

5. The government, subdivisions, cities, officers, and agents of Germany and her allies.

6. Enemy aliens interned in the United States for the period of the war.

7. Such other classes of persons as the President may designate

You Must Not

1. *You must not have business intercourse with the enemy.* Every kind of financial and commercial transaction is forbidden except under such license as the President may grant. (Penalty: $10,000 fine, 10 yrs. imprisonment, or both.)

2. *You must not send communications out of the country except through the mails* This applies to every possible communication in tangible form and forbids its transmission directly or indirectly unless under special license. (Penalty: $10,000 fine, 10 yrs. imprisonment, or both.)

3. *You must not evade the censor.* Rigid censorship has been placed upon all foreign mail, telegraph, cable, and wireless service. You are forbidden to attempt in any way to avoid submitting any outgoing communication to this censorship or by the use of any secret code to conceal from the censor the true meaning of the communication. (Penalty: $10,000 fine, 10 yrs. imprisonment, or both.)

TRADING WITH ANY FOREIGN COUNTRY WITHOUT A LICENSE

We are 3000 miles from the seat of war. Shipping has become vital problem. The government must be able to use every American ship for the purposes which are most important at the moment. Therefore no one may engage in the import or export trade without a license which subjects the holder to regulation and control (Penalty: $5000 fine, 2 yrs. imprisonment, or both.)

IGNORING THE WAR RESTRICTIONS LAID UPON YOUR BUSINESS

1. *Businesses Which Are Prohibited.* We must save food. It is therefore forbidden to use any food products in making whisky or any distilled spirits to be used as a beverage.

2. *Businesses Which Must Be Licensed.* Those who produce, store, or distribute the necessaries of life, except farmers and retail merchants, may be required by the President to take out licenses and conduct their businesses under government regulations.

Such licenses are now required in the case of foods, fertilizers, and some chemicals.

No person whatsoever may make or sell explosives without a license.

3. *No Destruction of Necessaries of Life.* To destroy food, fuel, or other necessary products for the purpose of increasing the price or reducing the supply is punishable by a heavy penalty.

4. *No Hoarding.* Any person who wilfully hoards the necessaries of life may be imprisoned or fined and the hoarded goods may be sold.

5. *Excessive Prices Forbidden.* The law deals sternly with the profiteer. Extortion will not be tolerated.

Coal and coke must not be sold at a higher price than that fixed by the President under penalty. Thus far the price at the mine only has been fixed.

Food and necessaries must not be sold at unreasonable prices. Licensed producers and distributors will have their licenses revoked for charging exorbitant prices. Unlicensed dealers will have their supplies cut off for the same offense.

Violations of any of these provisions are punishable by $5000 fine, 5 years imprisonment, or both.

WHAT THE NATION ASKS YOU TO DO

Patriotism is not content with obeying the letter of the law. The loyal citizen will gladly do more than he is obliged to do. The nation is relying upon this voluntary cooperation of all the people.

Our government is still requesting of us many things which European nations have been obliged to command. It rests with us to make compulsion unnecessary.

America, therefore, makes her appeal to your loyalty to do four things:

SAVE!

Save Food!

"Food will win the war. Do not waste it."

We must feed ourselves and our Allies.

Raise a garden and eat perishable foods.

Follow the rules of the Food Administrator.

Save Fuel!

Do not burn it needlessly. An open grate wastes three fourths of your heat.

Use wood instead of coal if you can.

In winter heat your house to 68° instead of 75° and save nearly 25% of your coal.

Save Money!

Cut down money spent for luxuries.

Buy and use only necessary articles.

Economy is vital to the nation; help make it fashionable.

Labor which produces unnecessary things is wasted. Do not encourage it.

LOAN!

If you cannot fight you can help by lending the government the money which it must have.

A Liberty Bond is a certificate of your faith in the justice of the cause for which we are fighting.

The United States is the best creditor in the world.

The interest paid makes patriotism a paying investment.

Loan the money you save—Save the money you loan!

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Buy Thrift Stamps!

Buy Liberty Bonds!

GIVE!

The government encourages you to give generously to relieve the sufferings and add to the comforts and happiness of the victims of war.

Give to the Red Cross. Your money is needed to help care for the wounded soldier.

Give to the Army Y. M. C. A. Your money is needed to provide recreation, clean amusements, a touch of home, for the boys in camp and trench.

Give to the Armenian and Syrian Relief and Similar needs. Your money is needed to save the lives of men, women, and children who are actually starving.

WORK!

There is something you can do to help win this war.

Acquaint yourself with the countless opportunities for service.

Find out which is yours.

Do it!

Now!

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